

Basingstoke peg back Wanderers' 3-1 lead

WYCOMBE Wanderers, 1-0 up after only two minutes of Tuesday night's friendly and 3-1 ahead at half time, were held to a 3-3 draw by Basingstoke, but what's probably more important — came through without any new injury worries for tomorrow's (Saturday) big Cup game against Bournemouth.

Wycombe started this match in tremendous form, stretching Basingstoke continually with some excellent passing and running. The visitors, who play in the Southern League, Division One (South), gave the Blues as much time and space as they wanted and they paid the full price in the first 45 minutes.

After the break, however, the Hampshire side got back into the game thanks to two goals from their former Banbury striker Tony Foster, who hit two goals, and a superb performance from their veteran midfield general Cliff Huxford who once skippered Southampton in Division Two.

Wanderers were disappointing in the second half. The distribution fell to a low standard and the half time substitution of Steve Perrin, who was the outstanding forward on the field, unbalanced the attack.

PERFECT SHOT

In the opening stages, though, Wycombe were at their best. They took the lead after only two minutes. Dylan Evans picked up a through ball from midfield and slotted a pass to Perrin who beat goalkeeper Rafferty with a perfectly placed shot.

With Paul Griffiths again impressing at full back, Wycombe attacked well down the flanks with Perrin always to the fore.

Basingstoke pulled a goal back after 28 minutes when Keith Smart's curling corner was prodded home by Foster and then the same player forced a fine save from John Maskell in the 35th minute.

Howard Kennedy restored Wycombe's lead two minutes later when Evans regained the ball he had lost seconds earlier and slipped it through to Kennedy who beat one defender before lashing the ball past Rafferty.

Then Evans made it 3-1 two minutes from half time with a well taken goal. Graham Mackenzie's weak shot hit a

defender and came out to Dylan who jinked past a would-be tackler and gave the keeper no chance with a firm drive.

Wanderers made one change at the interval, Mick Holifield replacing Perrin upfront while the visitors brought on three new players.

A fine one-two between Smart and Foster ended with the latter firing home their second goal in-off the far post after 56 minutes.

With Basingstoke now winning more and more possession and using it to better advantage than the home side, it came as no sur-

Jones to give Maskell no chance with a vicious shot from eight yards.

Dave Alexander, who again impressed when coming forward to join the attack, went close in the closing stages but despite forcing four corners in the last five minutes, Wycombe were unable to break through again.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Griffiths, P. Birdseye (sub. G. Hand 79 mins.), A. Phillips, D. Bullock; G. Mackenzie, H. Kennedy (sub. T. Reardon 79 mins.), D. Alexander; D. Evans, K. Searle, S. Perrin (sub. M. Holifield 45 mins.).

BASINGSTOKE: P. Rafferty (sub. Harris 45 mins.); J. Armon (sub. Jones 45 mins.), M. Travers (sub. Griggs 45 mins.), C. Hayson, A. Newcombe; J. Stevenson, C. Huxford, M. Vine; T. Foster, J. Stevenson, K. Smart.

Referee: G. Dawes (High Wycombe).

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Basingstoke Town 3

REPORT By STUART EARP

In the early stages of the new half Basingstoke took the initiative while Mackenzie and Keith Searle both struggled to get into top gear for Wycombe.

prise when they equalised at 3-3 in the 81st minute. Gary Hand, another substitute, completely missed his attempted clearance and left the way open for full back